Panchayati Raj

AUGUST 1963

28 AUG
T. KALLUPATTI

THE DOCTOR CULTIVATOR—*Dr. C. L. Raidu, President of Panchayat Samithi Gannavaram, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Though a physician by profession, he is a progressive farmer by choice. His two-acre plot of sugarcane gives a yield of 242 tons and a net profit of Rs. 800 per year.*

The sugarcane has a luxuriant growth and goes up to a height of 30 ft. Three tiers of trash twists and props of bamboo keep the crop erect

DOCTOR TURNED FARMER

The farmers of the neighbouring villages are frequent visitors and admirers of the Doctor's rich crops.

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LETTERS

COCKPITS OF POWER STRUGGLE

Sir,

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ bodies in Orissa are soon turning into cockpits of power struggle. Whatever stability they had in the past is disappearing under the impact of the newly passed Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad Amendment Act. Under the new provisions, the office-bearers of the Panchayat Samitis can be removed by a simple majority instead of two-thirds as provided earlier. Now the only work in Panchayat Samitis is the struggle amongst different groups to gain power. Efforts are made every now and then by contending parties to corrupt the members and win them over by fair means or foul. Little useful work is done in this atmosphere of uncertainty. After all, the Panchayati Raj bodies are meant to be instruments of service to the community and not of gaining power somehow. Unless there is some stability and a reasonable chance of continuity is assured to the group in power, it is extremely difficult for it to function properly. It is, therefore, very essential that the old clause providing for the removal of office-bearers by two-thirds majority, should be reintroduced.

5-6-1963 Yours etc.
Balasore, *J. N. DAS*
ORISSA.

REGISTERED *VERSUS* UNREGISTERED CO-OPERATIVES

Sir,

IT IS somewhat puzzling to note the great importance that is attached in our country to things bearing an official stamp as compared to those that are voluntary. A notable example of this is the overriding importance that is attached to the certificates or degrees awarded by our educational institutions. A person without a university degree, no matter however learned he may be, is not likely to get the requisite credence that is otherwise due to him.

A somewhat similar state of affairs exists in the field of co-operation. A co-operative society, if it is registered under the co-operative Act, is creditworthy in every way no matter even if it does not transact any business to the mutual advantage of its members. Instances are not lacking where the societies exist but in name only, yet they get all the facilities offered by the Government. On the other hand, there may be absolutely genuine societies which being unregistered, are not entitled to receive any help or consideration from the Government. Let it not be forgotten that the co-operative movement is essentially a people's movement, voluntary in character and unless it is freed from the delusion of official patronisation, it cannot come into its own. It would be relevant to point out that in Denmark where the co-operative movement has progressed more than anywhere else, the Co-operative Societies have seldom borne the official stamp of registration.

(*Continued on page 16*)

High staircases have been provided to facilitate crop inspection from a height of 30 ft.

DOCTOR TURNS A FARMER

TEJ NARAIN

FORTYSIX year old Dr. C. L. Raidu, the President of Panchayat Samithi Gannavaram, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh is, by profession, a physician but a progressive farmer by choice. Not that he does not like his own medical vocation. Indeed he has been pursuing the noble profession with a rare spirit of service and devotion. As early as 1947-48, he held a benefit performance and collected Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a colony for a hospital for the lepers. After persistent efforts, it was in 1950 that he succeeded in building a rural colony consisting of 25 houses with protected water supply.

It was a chance purchase of a two-acre plot of barren land that brought out the progressive farmer in him. No doubt, he belongs to a family of well-known agriculturists. But the farmer's talents lay dormant in him till then. Before that he was known as a doctor only by all and sundry.

When he purchased the barren plot, little did he know that it concealed a rich store-house of artesian springs. He was then rather worried about the fate of agriculture in his plot for though it contained rich alluvial soil typical of the Krishna delta, there was no water available for irrigation. For the first two seasons, his crops were just of ordinary standard as in the rest of the locality. His hopes, however, brightened up when he succeeded in striking an artesian well.

The soil proved ideal for sugar cultivation. By resorting to improved scientific methods of farming, he began to increase the yield of his Sugarcane crops every year. Through hard work and optimum utilisation of farm resources, he succeeded in attaining a yield of 121 tons per acre. His aim is to reach the All India target of 151 tons per acre.

It will be of immense interest and benefit to others to know how he succeeded in achieving such magnificent results.

IMPROVED FARMING PRACTICES

To start with, he applied green manure of sunnhemp to the soil. For purposes of planting, deep trenches 30 in. apart from each other, having a width of 12 in. and a depth of 8 in. were dug with a 4 in. loose seed bed at the base. They were allowed to weather for about a fortnight. Into these trenches were applied 12.5 tons of tank silt and 25 tons of 'Pati earth' (old village site).

Good seed material was selected from healthy short crops obtained from neighbouring villages. They were made into three-budded sets and planted after dipping in "Aretan" 6 per cent (suspension). Liberal manuring consisting of 20 tons of farm yard manure, 12 tons of compost, 3.5 tons of sheep manure, 2.15 tons of pig manure and .9 ton of poultry manure was put in per acre. Besides, 2,100 lbs of groundnut cake per acre was also applied. In addition, 8,816 lbs of fertilisers of various kinds were used at various stages.

Irrigation water was supplied with the help of a pumping set installed in an artesian well. It is estimated that the crop received about 50 waterings.

Hoeing and weeding was carried out systematically till the crop closed in. White ants which

(*Continued on page 14*)

SHRAMDAN WEEK IN MAHARASHTRA

THE CONCEPTS of Defence Labour Bank and Village Volunteer Force schemes based primarily on self-help and voluntary labour stood thoroughly vindicated when the rural people of Maharashtra completed through their own labour, development works estimated to cost more than Rs. 53 lakhs in a Shramdan Week organised throughout the State from April 25 to May 1. If this tremendous achievement was carried out in just one week, how much more would be possible if the same were done regularly throughout the year by the country as a whole !

There is just one commodity of which there is enough and to spare in the rural areas, and that is : the labour of the people. And labour is nothing but another form of wealth. If ways and means could be found so as to successfully harness this surplus wealth, a great step would have been taken towards meeting the Emergency and building up of the country. It was precisely with this end in view that the Maharashtra Government observed the Shramdan Week as a part of the intensive national defence programme already put into execution on a six monthly basis from January 1963 onwards.

IDEA MOOTED

The idea of the Shramdan Week was mooted by the State's Chief Minister Shri M. S. Kannamwar, who had earlier issued an appeal to the people in the State to carry out various rural development activities during the Week by voluntary labour. In terms of money, the target for the work to be carried out during the Week was placed at Rs. 30 lakhs, which was further broken up in the case of each individual district. The commencing as well as the closing date of the Week was an auspicious day, for, while April 25 is the birth-day anniversary of India's national hero Chhatrapati Shivaji, May 1 is the Maharashtra State Anniversary Day. This fact of course lent a significance to the Shramdan Week and added colour to it.

WARM RESPONSE

The Chief Minister's appeal drew a very wide and enthusiastic response from people all over the States and in all walks of life. The Week was ceremoniously inaugurated by the State's Minister for Agriculture, Shri D. S. Desai at Shivneri, Shivaji's birth place, where peasants from the adjoining areas of Konkan thronged in thousands to witness the grand event and also to lend a helping hand to the Shramdan campaign.

The prizes announced by the State Government for best efforts at the district and village levels created a spirit of healthy competition among the people. The programme of work for the Week included a very wide range of activities such as construction of village approach roads, digging of wells and tanks and desilting of old ones, excavation of field channels, preparation of compost and farm-yard manure, reclamation of waste land, improvement of farm lands, construction of school and panchayat buildings, village sanitation and such other works which help to step up agricultural production and raise the economic and social standard of the rural population. Special emphasis was placed on contour-bunding of land in the scarcity areas like Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Sangli and Aurangabad where this programme had already made a remarkable progress.

The enthusiasm of the people was so overwhelming that the target of Rs. 30 lakhs set for the Shramdan Week was exceeded by about Rs. 23.50 lakhs. Thus in all, works worth Rs. 53,56,082 were carried out by voluntary labour during the Week. Chanda district, which carried out works worth Rs. 6.92 lakhs, won the first prize of Rs. 500. The second prize of Rs. 200 went to Buldhana district whose contribution of Shramdan was Rs. 3.98 lakhs. Besides these awards, 193 prizes of Rs. 100 each were given to the villages in different districts for putting up best efforts.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Apart from the economic aspect, the Shramdan Week created a healthy social impact. It helped to reduce the gulf between the rich and the poor, the high and the low in the social hierarchy. The people working together in complete harmony forgot all their differences of religion, caste, creed and the like. At Majale, a

(*Continued on page* 9)

PANCHAYATI RAJ—Its Overall Progress

THE NUMBER of Panchayats in the country now stands at a little over two lakhs, covering as many as 5,33,000 villages. This means that some 95 per cent of the rural population has been covered by the Panchayats.

The average number of villages per Panchayat varies from 22 in the case of Himachal Pradesh to 1.4 in the case of Madras. Orissa has 20 villages on an average under a Panchayat. The average population of the Panchayat also varies from 755 in U.P. to 11,996 in Kerala. The average for the country as a whole is 2.6 villages per Panchayat with a population of about 14,000.

Panchayati Raj or Democratic Decentralisation is an attempt to effect transfer of power to the people. Various States have evolved patterns of Panchayati Raj suited to local conditions.

ANDHRA

IN ANDHRA PRADESH, Panchayats have been functioning under the Madras Panchayat Act (1956) in the *ex*-Madras area and under the Hyderabad Village Panchayats Act (1956) in the rest of the State. An integrated Panchayat Bill has now been considered by the Joint Select Committee and is likely to be passed during the next session of the State Legislature. There are 15,098 Panchayats in the State covering the entire rural population.

ASSAM

UNDER THE Assam Panchayat Act (1959), Assam has adopted a three-tier structure of local self-governing institutions with the Gaon Panchayats at the village level, Anchalik Panchayats at the Block level and Mohkuma Parishads at the sub-division level. All the villages in the State are covered by Panchayats, 2,535 in all, on an average one Panchayat for seven villages.

The "tea-growing" areas in the State have, for the present, been excluded from the scope of the Act, but the State Government is considering its extension with suitable modification to these areas. Panchayats in 8 Blocks have taken up Rural Insurance work in this State.

BIHAR

THE THREE-TIER system of Panchayati Raj was adopted by Bihar in December, 1961. The State Government proposes to launch Panchayati Raj in four districts on Independence Day this year and in the remaining districts by August 15, next year. Bihar has 10,641 Panchayats covering 67,406 villages. There are 6.3 villages per Panchayat with an average population of 3,355.

GUJARAT

AN INTEGRATED Panchayat Act has been passed for the establishment of Gram Panchayats in Gujarat. A village with a population not exceeding 10,000 forms a Gram and has a Gram Sabha. Panchayati Raj was introduced all over the State on April 2, this year. The State has 10,750 Panchayats covering 17,760 villages. On an average, there are 1.7 villages per Panchayat with a population of about 1,100.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR State has been covered entirely by Panchayats. There are 960 Panchayats with an average of 7.6 villages per Panchayat, covering a population of about 3,000. Panchayati Raj is yet to be introduced in this State.

KERALA

LEGISLATION regarding the introduction of the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj is proposed to be implemented in Kerala shortly and general elections to Panchayats will be held in August, 1963. There are 923 Panchayats covering over 1,600 villages in this State. Each Panchayat has, on an average, 1.8 villages with a population of 13,776.

MADHYA PRADESH

AN INTEGRATED Panchayati Raj Bill has been passed by the Madhya Pradesh State legislature and the State Government has decided to set up higher tiers of Panchayati Raj bodies only after holding fresh elections to the village Panchayats, most of which have outlived their term. The elections are likely to be completed by the end of October, 1963. The Block and District level institutions are expected to start functioning early in 1964. Special provision has been made for the constitution of Adivasi Panchayats and Pargana Panchayats in the areas where majority of the inhabitants are members of the scheduled tribes. An Adivasi Panchayat, constituted for

any village or group of villages will consist of such number of elected Panches as may be fixed by Government and the Sarpanch nominated by Government from amongst the Panches. A Pargana Panchayat constituted for a group of Adivasi Panchayats consists of a Sarpanch and 4 Panches all nominated by Government. The State has 20,311 Panchayats covering 71,751 villages. On an average, there are 3.5 villages per panchayat with a population of 1,123.

MADRAS

IN MADRAS, the Panchayat Act of 1958, enforced since January 1, 1960, provides for Panchayats at the village level and Panchayat Union Councils at the Block level. The Madras Panchayat Act 1950, formerly in force in the State, provided only for Panchayats at the village level. The three-tier system has been adopted since the new legislation was passed. There are 12,583 Panchayats in the State covering more than 18,000 villages and a rural population of 2.26 crores. On an average each Panchayat has under its jurisdiction 1.4 villages and a population of 1,796.

MAHARASHTRA

GRAM PANCHAYATS are functioning in Maharashtra under the Bombay Panchayat Act, (1958) which was in force in the erstwhile bilingual Bombay State. The Gram Sabha with authority to discuss Panchayat budget, statement of accounts etc. is recognised. The Maharashtra Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act has just been passed. There are 19,399 Panchayats in the State covering as many as 38,176 villages. On an average, there are two villages with a population of 1,242 under each Panchayat.

MYSORE

THE MYSORE Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, envisages a three-tier system with Panchayat at the village leve', Taluk Board at the Taluk level and Development Council at the district level. There are 7,500 Panchayats in this State at District 26,000 villages. On an average, there are 3.5 villages under a Panchayat with a population of 1,986.

ORISSA

UNDER THE Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1947, Panchayats have been in existence in the State covering nearly 97 per cent of the rural population. The State introduced the three-tier system under the Orissa Panchayat Samithies and Zila Parishads Act, 1959. The Act was enforced on January 26, 1961. The State has 2,342 Panchayats covering about 48,000 villages. Each Panchayat has to control on an average 20 villages and a population of 5,800.

In order to enthuse the Panchayats, the State Government has decided to award two prizes for Panchayats which establish rural industrial units.

PUNJAB

IN PUNJAB, prior to 1959, two legislations on Panchayats—Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, and the PEPSU Panchayat Raj Act—were in force. The Punjab Gram Panchayat (Amendment) Act of 1959, repealed the PEPSU Panchayat Raj Act and extended the Punjab Act, with some modifications, to the entire State. The Gram Panchayat is constituted by direct election from adult voters of the village. Gram Sabha is recognised. The Sabha has the authority to consider the budget and draw up development plans. There are 13,466 Panchayats in this State covering 20,855 villages. On an average, there are 1.5 villages under a Panchayat with a population of about 1,000.

The Punjab Government has a scheme for encouraging unanimity in the elections to Panchayats. The entire land revenue of one year is passed over to Panchayats where elections are unanimous.

RAJASTHAN

RAJASTHAN introduced Panchayati Raj on October 2, 1959. The State has introduced a special scheme under which Samitis with outstanding performances in selected fields are given substantial cash awards. The State Government has introduced a scheme to give a special annual grant of 25 nP per head of population to every Panchayat for the full term of three years of its life, where the Sarpanch and 80 per cent of the Panches are elected unanimously. The State has 7,393 Panchayats covering 34,440 villages. There are about 4.7 villages under a Panchayat with an average population of about 1,800.

UTTAR PRADESH

GRAM PANCHAYATS have been in existence in Uttar Pradesh since 1947. The Panchayat which has a five-year term is a directly elected body. Election is by show of hands. There are 72,333 villages in this State with about 1.5 villages per

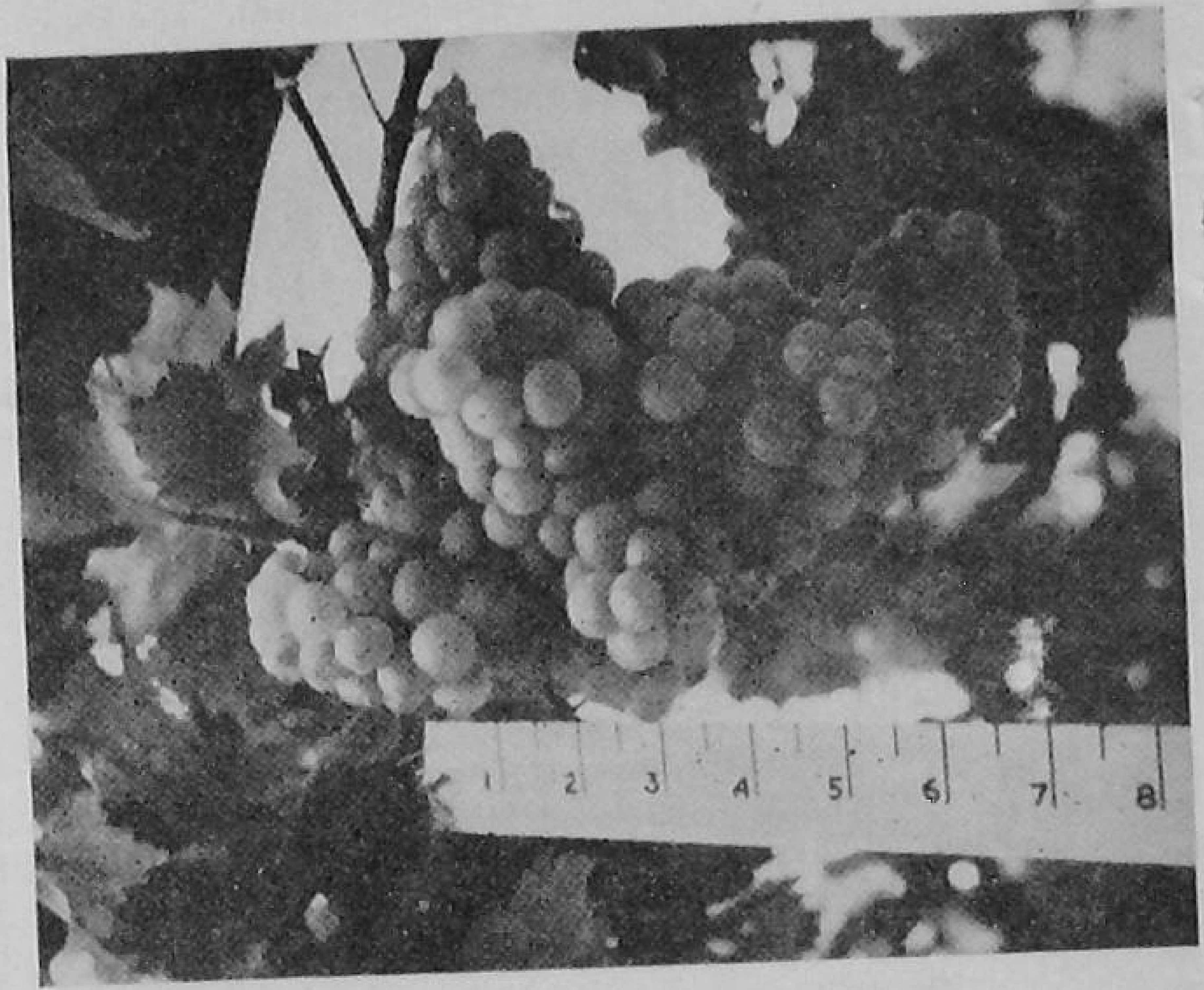
(*Continued on page 16*)

FRUITS FOR MILLIONS

Mysore Gives A Lead

Do YOU want an yearly income of Rs. 5,000 from an acre of land? If so, Muniappa a farmer from Mysore will tell you how he has done it and is doing it even now.

Four years ago, like thousands of other farmers of Mysore, he grew only Ragi and paddy on his land. This meant hard work with little reward. With the passage of time it became harder still. Water became scarce; cost of fertilisers went up; with numerous industries, big and small, springing up in and around Bangalore, labour became hard to find. Hardship did not depress him, however. He was devoted to his land and did not want to desert it. His hardship provoked him to think of new uses to which his land could be put.



A close-up of the grapes in an orchard. The scale gives an idea of the length of the bunch.

GROWING THE GRAPES

Muniappa finally unburdened his troubles to an officer of the Horticulture Department. The officer examined the soil and the terrain and with a smile gave him a magic formula for a new life. He told him to grow fruits on his land. At first Muniappa was sceptic but simple arithmetic swept away all his doubts. The officer told him that if he grew grapes on his land he would require only one-third of the water and manure required for Ragi. He could carry on all the work by himself or with one assistant. But his income would be ten times more. No argument could be stronger than this arithmetic. With indefatigable energy Muniappa set to work on a small area and in a year the barren stretch of land was full of slender curling plants and a year later these plants bore bunches of blue grapes. Each acre of land in which he grew grapes brought him an annual income of about Rs. 4,000. A new life began for Muniappa. Soon he converted his entire holding of 20 acres into a grape yard.

Muniappa is today only one among hundreds of others who have taken to grape cultivation. As a result, the blue variety of grapes, popularly called 'Bangalore Blues', is now being grown in nearly 10,000 acres of land in and around Bangalore. The grape yards vary in size from one or two acres to twenty acres or more. There are two crops in a year yielding about 20,000 pounds of grapes per acre. Even at the rate of 25 nP. a pound, one acre of grapes can fetch an yearly income of Rs. 5,000. The 'Bangalore Blues' are now grown widely in the districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mandya and Mysore. These grapes are best suited for the preparation of grape juice and even wine. They can be kept longer than the other varieties.

The superior varieties of grapes like Anab-e-Shahi, Fakri and Gulabi are being grown in the northern districts of Mysore State. Some of these bring an income of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 per acre. Attempts are being made to grow these in the coastal districts also.

The Horticulture Department of the Mysore Government has been assisting in the cultivation of grapes. In addition to giving liberal loans on

easy terms and providing water and manure at cheap rates, it is also introducing and supplying new and better varieties of seedlings. It is encouraging preparation of grape juice by giving demonstrations. At the fruit nursery at Lalbagh about 150 varieties of grapes, got from several countries, are under trial. The grape growers have formed a marketing and processing co-operative society. The 'Bangalore Blues' are now sent out to many places in the neighbouring States of Andhra, Madras and Kerala. In 1961, for example, about 30,000 maunds of grapes were sent out.

AND GUAVA TOO

Growing other fruits is proving equally profitable. Lakshmiah, from a village near Bangalore, proudly recounts his achievement in growing guavas. His ancestors were traditionally growing Ragi in their land. They were hardly getting an annual income of Rs. 300 per acre. This was not enough to provide with the basic necessities of life.

Lakshmiah, however, was fired with the desire of making his brother a qualified engineer. Many of his friends scoffed at the idea. They said that education, especially engineering, was for the rich only, and he would ruin himself by persisting in this project. But Lakshmiah was undaunted. He was prepared for any amount of hard work and sacrifice if only he could accomplish his desire. Out of the five acres of land in which he was growing Ragi, Lakshmiah began to grow guava in three acres. When they began yielding fruits, he got an income of Rs. 1,000 per acre. But to get this money he had to carry the fruits on his bicycle to Bangalore, 15 miles away. This did not deter him. Each mile he travelled, was bringing him nearer his goal—that of making his brother an engineer, and soon he did reach his goal. Today his brother is a prosperous contractor, working on a quarry. They own three lorries. Lakshmiah is at the moment busy constructing a huge well at a cost of about Rs. 15,000. This well is to provide water for his guava trees and grape yard. Those who had earlier scoffed at his idea have now began to follow in his footsteps.

FRUITS AND MORE FRUITS

Like Muniappa and Lakshmiah, many others have begun to realise that mere cultivation of Ragi or paddy will not improve their lot and that they have to grow more remunerative crops. Byre Gowda from another village who has a big orchard of his own was emphatic that if the standard of living of the farmer has to improve, he should take to cultivation of other crops like fruits and vegetables. He pointedly asked where was the need to import foodgrains from other countries when we could grow plenty of fruits and provide our people with nutritious food. He was not far off the mark when he said that what people in India lack is not merely food but good, nourishing food, and fruits can supply this better.

The idea is catching and many commercial varieties of fruits are now being grown in Mysore State. The chief among them are : mango grown in about 48,000 acres, banana in about 55,000 acres, citrus fruits in about 34,000 acres and other fruits like guava and sapota grown in about 30,000 acres.

Through loans, supply of quality plants and technical assistance, the Mysore Government is giving a great impetus to the cultivation of fruits.

The Third Plan of the State has made a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs for the development of fruits. It is expected that during the Plan period new orchards will cover an area of 15,000 acres. In addition, old orchards covering an area of 20,000 acres are to be rejuvenated. It is also proposed to supply 20 lakh plants to growers.

The Government is providing technical staff at the State, divisional and district levels to advise the growers. To meet the requirements of the growers, it is proposed to set up a chain of nurseries in all districts. The annual output of these nurseries is expected to be 4 lakh fruit plants. In addition, eight research stations are to be set up in the different soil and climatic zones in the State to cover all the fruit crops that are being grown.

These measures of the Government and the enthusiasm of the growers will go a long way in realising the dream of "Fruits for the Millions".

TRAINING THE GRAM SAHAYAKS

G. S. VIDYARTHI & O. B. KAUSHAL

THE 'GRAM SAHAYAK' is a progressive farmer as well as an influential village leader. He has been the local extension agent spreading the knowledge and technology of improved farming amongst his fellow village farmers. The Gram Sevak or the Extension Officer by himself was incapable of reaching all the farmers. Their efforts needed to be supplemented by a number of Gram Sahayaks operating in their own villages.

In order to make the Gram Sahayaks more effective in this self-imposed and honorary task of extension work, short duration camps of two or three days were organised in the villages. However, it was soon realised that by and large these camps were too short to create any lasting impact on their minds.

Then came the Emergency caused by the unprovoked Chinese attack on our borders. Reacting to the new situation, the schemes of Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Bank were devised to give a fillip to agricultural production. The success of these schemes depends on the effectiveness of the Task Force for production. The latter is to be built around the nucleus of the Gram Sahayaks.

Consequently, it became essential to reorient the scheme of training of Gram Sahayaks to suit the new requirements. In fact, the Annual Conference on Community Development, held in 1957 and 1960 had already recommended the need of higher training for 'Gram Sahayaks'.

THE NEW SCHEME

Keeping in view these facts, the Directorate of Extension in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture formulated a comprehensive and workable scheme for the higher training of 'Gram Sahayaks'.

The revised scheme does not envisage a generalised type of training in agriculture extending over a few months because the village farmers cannot spare so much time. On the other hand, it is intended to meet their specific requirements and therefore it is proposed to arrange short-term courses on special subjects such as crop husbandry including improved crop varieties; improved agricultural practices like green-manuring and fertilizer application, fruit and vegetable growing; farming methods leading to water and soil conservation; operation of improved agricultural implements; plant protection measures; livestock management etc. These courses aim at providing practical and intensive training in selected subjects based on the actual problems encountered by the farmers in the field. In order to make these courses practical, special preparations have to be made by the training institutions for organising each course.

TRAINING METHODS

The methods of training include demonstrations, a few selected talks, field trips, group discussions and practicals. As effort will be made to enable the farmers to gain practical knowledge which they could apply in their farming operations. The Syllabus for each course will be developed by the institutions concerned with the guidance and assistance of subject-matter specialists after taking into consideration the local conditions and the requirements of a particular batch.

STUDY TRIPS

During each training course a short study tour extending over a day or two will be organised to nearby farms of Agricultural Department, Regional Research Stations, other institutions of interest and private farms of progressive cultivators. For this purpose, a token provision of Rs. 500 per institution per year has been made in the scheme. In case, the farmers desire to visit far-away places, the same will also be arranged provided they contribute a portion of the cost.

DURATION

Each training course will be of approximately 10–15 days duration. The exact duration of the course will be fixed depending on local conditions and the requirements of a particular batch. In case of exclusive courses for the sons of farmers, the duration of the course will, if necessary, be increased to even more than 15 days, depending upon the experience and requirements of these young farmers.

VENUE OF TRAINING

The training courses will be organised at selected Gram Sevak Training Centre, Agricultural Colleges and other suitable institutions which have acquired sufficient training experience in Agriculture and allied fields and have developed certain specialised field programmes for providing a realistic and practical type of higher training to the farmers. The Institutions selected for the purpose would be such as have the required physical facilities and are located in the rural areas. Wherever necessary facilities are available, some of these courses will also be organised and selected private farms that are being run on modern lines.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

In addition to their existing staff, the Training Institutions will be provided with the following additional staff exclusively for the training of Gram Sahayaks.

1. One Officer Incharge of Farmers' Training Programme.
2. One Field Assistant.
3. One Clerk-*cum*-Typist and a peon.

Besides, progressive farmers who have attained high standards of proficiency in producing record crops at their farms, will be invited to address the Gram Sahayaks as Guest Lecturers. District, regional and State level specialists in the field of agriculture will also address the trainees and attempt to thrash out their practical problems on the spot.

THE MAGNITUDE

The training courses will be organised at about 100 institutions selected for the purpose. At each institution 10 courses will be organised during the course of a year and each batch will consist of 40 Gram Sahayaks. Calculated on this basis, 40,000 Gram Sahayaks will be trained every year and during the remaining 3 years of the Third Plan period, as many as 1,20,000 Gram Sahayaks will receive this training.

All farmers who have already attended one of the village leaders' training camps held in the Development Blocks and are actual tillers of the soil will be eligible for this training. The sons of farmers and Women Gram Sahayaks who are actually pursuing the agricultural profession will also be eligible. They will undergo training either alongwith Gram Sahayaks or exclusive courses will be organised for them in those areas in which they feel interested. In the initial stages of the implementation of the scheme, the Gram Sahayaks residing in the areas adjoining the Training Centres/Institutions selected for the purpose will be admitted for this training. Besides, the farmers belonging to the areas where the intensive cultivation programmes for rice, jowar, bajra and pulses are being undertaken, will be given preference. In certain special cases, however, exceptions can be made at the discretion of the competent Authority.

BOARD AND LODGING

The Gram Sahayaks attending these training courses will be provided with free board and lodging. For this purpose, a provision of Rs. 1.60 nP. per head per day has been made in the scheme.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE

Ordinarily, the Gram Sahayaks who come to attend these courses from the neighbouring areas will not be entitled to any travelling allowance. However, those farmers who come from comparatively longer distances, a certain portion of the travelling expenses incurred will be paid to them. For this purpose, a token provision of Rs. 100 per centre per year has been made in the scheme.

SHRAMDAN WEEK IN MAHARASHTRA

(*Continued from page 3*)

village in Kolhapur district, the villagers ploughed 50 acres of land belonging to the poor Harijans. In Akola district, the well-to-do cultivators joined their poor brethren to help the latter in their farm work. At Khindwadi, a village in Satara district, the villagers, aided by social workers and officials contour-bunded fields belonging to the persons who are away from their homes serving in the army. These are only a few typical instances of the community spirit in which the people looked upon the programme of the Shramdan Week and worked for it.

Well begun is half done. It is hoped that the villagers will no longer rest on their oars but continue the good work they have begun during the Week.

V. V. F. MARCHES ON

Members of the Village Volunteer Force of Suragenahalli, Gubbi Development Block, Mysore State, are levelling some deep ditches near the village to plant cocoanut plants.

According to the latest reports from the States and Union Territories, the total number of persons enrolled so far in the Village Volunteer Force is over 113 lakhs. This means that nearly one-sixteenth of the rural working population have enrolled themselves in the Village Volunteer Force.

The Defence Labour Banks have secured labour donations of over 278 lakh man-days. Taking Rs. 1.25 per day as the average wage-rate over the country as a whole, the money value of the donations works out to about Rs. 3.5 crores. In addition, cash contributions of about Rs. 3 lakhs have also been received in lieu of labour.

In Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Madras and Mysore, women volunteers have joined the force in large numbers. As on date, more than 1.8 lakh women have joined the V.V.F. Andhra Pradesh has now nearly 1,16,000 women in the V.V.F.

Land reclamation, construction of field channels, clearing of tanks and development of poultry and fishery were some of the programmes generally undertaken by the Force.

ANDHRA PRADESH

In all 9,00,100 volunteers have been enrolled; of these 1,15,600 are women. Some 35,28,000 man-days were donated, of which 1,51,000 man-days have so far been utilised.

ASSAM

Over 4,69,000 persons including about 9,000 women have enrolled themselves in V.V.F. Two week-long training camps were held at Nilambazar and Hailankandi and training was given to Panchayat Presidents, Dalapaties and Gram Sevaks.

BIHAR

Nearly 31 lakh volunteers are now enrolled in the V.V.F. Eight lakh man-days have so far been donated to the Defence Labour Banks.

GUJARAT

The total number of people enrolled so far in the V.V.F. is 2,24,312. The number of man-days donated in the State is 3,81,633. In addition, cash donation received in lieu of labour amounts to over Rs. 22,000.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Latest figures from Jammu and Kashmir have not yet been received. But according to earlier reports, some two lakh people had enrolled themselves in the V.V.F. in the State.

KERALA

Some 1.48 lakh persons have joined the V.V.F so far. This includes about 8,600 women. The number of man-days donated in the D.L.B.s is over 75,000. Training course for members of V.V.F. was launched in the middle of May by the Kerala Bharat Sevak Samaj. Under the programme which was taken up at the instance of the State Government, 155 camps will be conducted to give training to the 1.48 lakh members of the V.V.F. The State Government will provide assistance to the tune of Rs. 1,65 lakhs.

MADHYA PRADESH

More than 5,40,000 people now form the V.V.F. in the State. They are to be trained before the next rainy season. Already four 15-

(*Continued on page 12*)

A Samithi takes to Aerial Spraying

P. BALASUBRAHMANYAM

THE AEROPLANE is useful not only in the operational theatre of war against the Chinese invaders, it comes in handy in the war against the enemies of our crops too,— the pests !

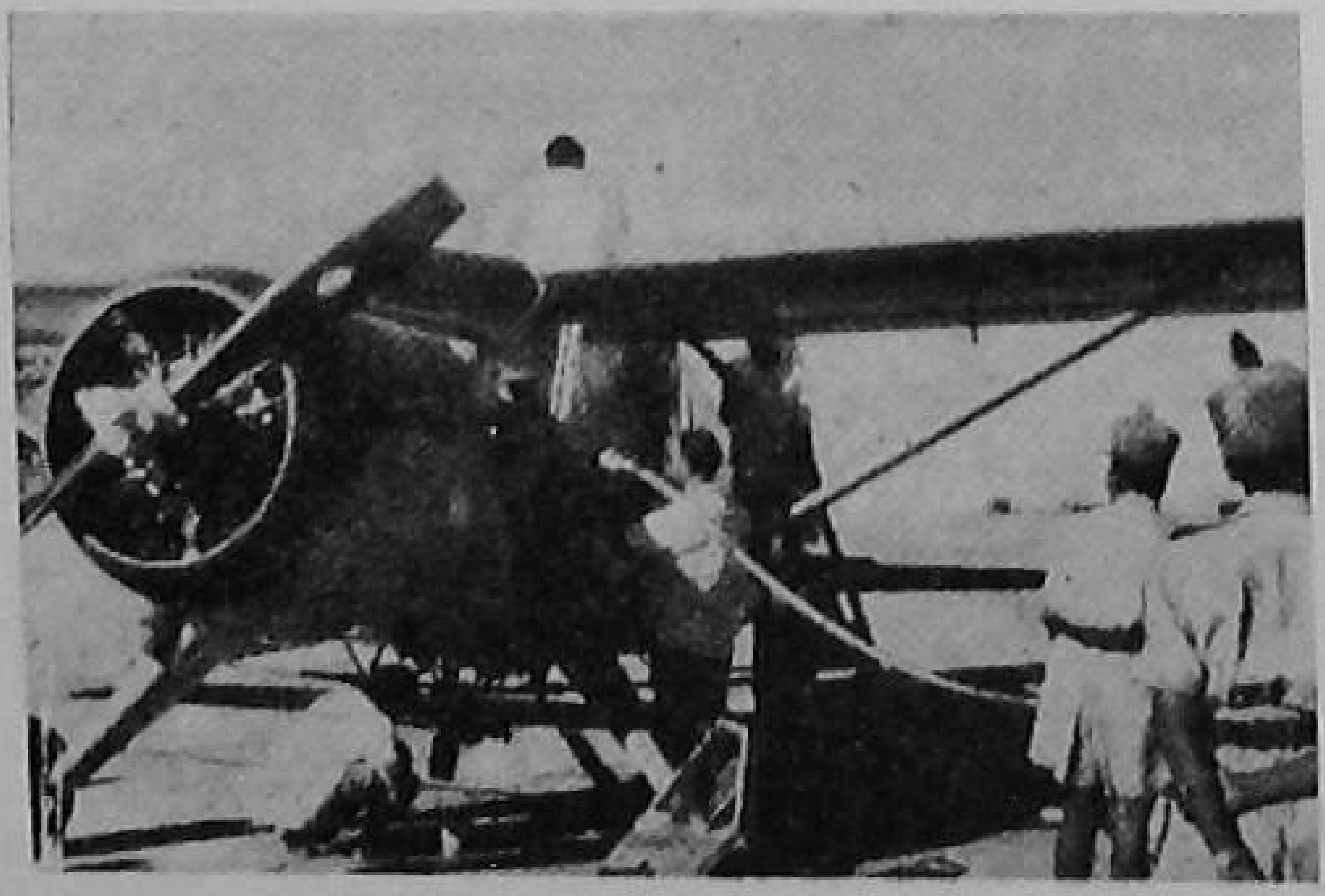
It looks terrific when used as an instrument for dropping bombs and killing human beings. But it is most welcome when it comes to the succour of poor helpless farmers and saves thousands of acres of their valuable crops from utter destruction due to pests and diseases.

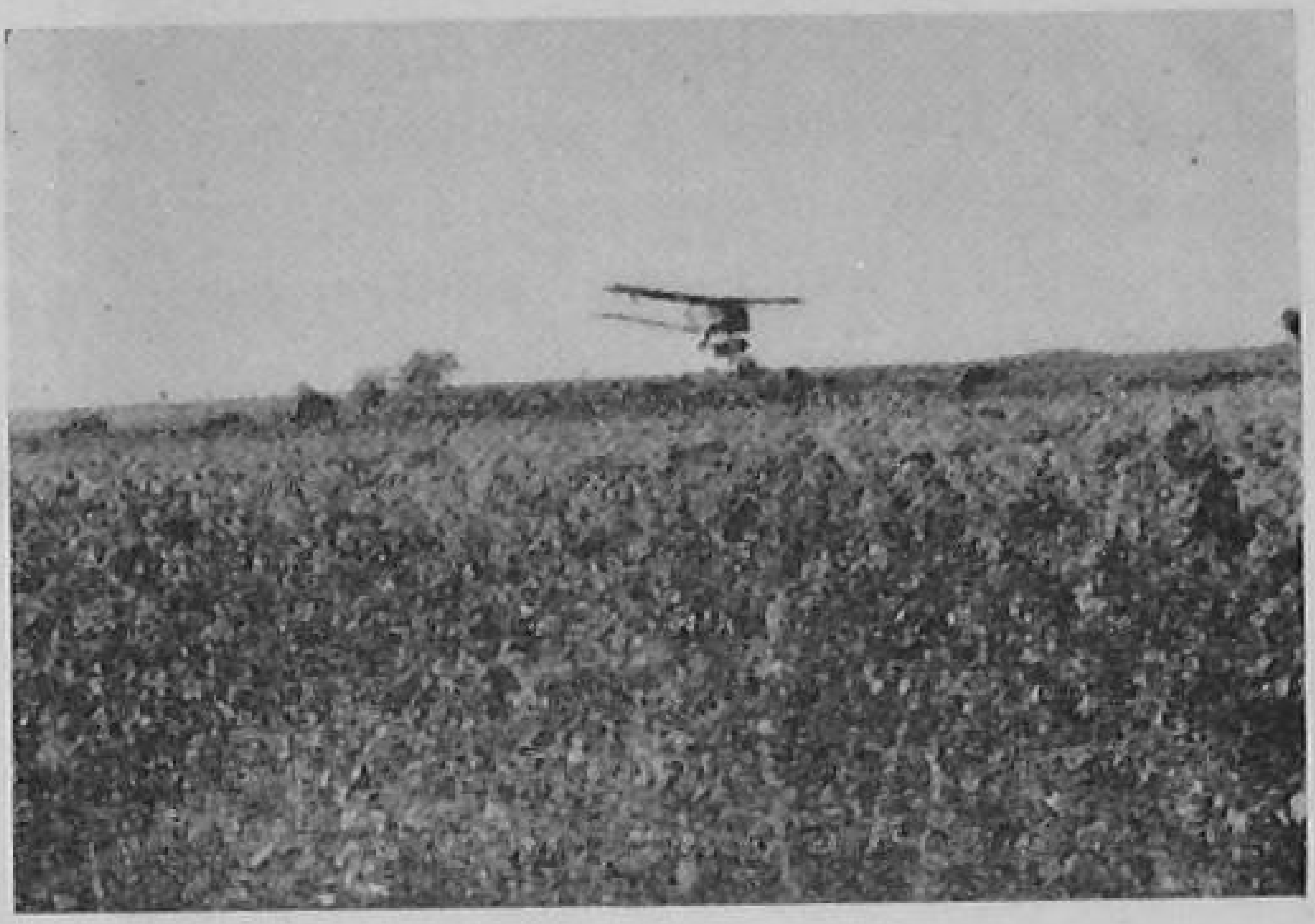
BENEVOLENT ASPECT

I had a chance to witness this benevolent aspect of the aeroplane when thousands of acres of cotton crop grown in Adoni Samithi areas in Andhra were in danger of being destroyed by the pest known as 'Jassid'. The pest is very devastating in its effects. It consists of wedge-shaped insects which suck the sap and thus cause curling up of the leaves.

Laxmi cotton is an important commercial crop in Adoni Samithi, grown in dry as well as irrigated areas. It is a long staple cotton sown in the month of August. The crop remains in the field till the end of March and is easy of cultivation. In dry lands, the yield may go up to 250 lbs. per acre while in irrigated areas, it is over 500 lbs. per acre. In intensively cultivated areas, the yield may go up to even 1,000 lbs. per acre, thus revealing the potentialities of production of this crop.

The 'Bewar' plane getting ready for the aerial spraying





The aeroplane spraying insecticide over the cotton crop.

In the past, whenever the crop was plagued with the pest, the farmers sprayed with hand sprayers endrin .02 per cent. But the progress was so limited that in a day hardly two acres were covered. The cost incurred was also excessive, being Rs. 10/- per acre. This procedure did not cut much ice when large areas were infected with the disease. On such occasions, aerial spraying proved to be more effective and economical. It was in the latter context that the Samithi requisitioned the services of a Plane for spraying Laxmi cotton. The 'Bewar' type of plane was sent by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Government of India. The plane, costing about four lakhs of rupees can carry 1,500 lbs. of pesticide for each sortie.

Popular excitement ran high as the news spread that the arrival of a plane for purposes of aerial spraying was imminent. The villagers in their hundreds collected at the

spot. It was a job to control the crowd. But for the adequate police arrangement made beforehand, it would have become impossible to go ahead with the operation of spraying. Before the plane could come, a number of preliminaries had to be carried out. A site of about 1,500 feet long and 150 feet wide had to be levelled to serve as an air strip for the plane. A windsaw had to be raised. A few sheds were also erected for storage of aviation spirit, endrin, water, etc.

OPERATION SPRAYING

The "operation spraying" began at 7 a.m. The plane could carry out about ten sorties in a day covering about 500 acres. In order to guide the plane, a large number of flagmen were posted holding flags at a distance of 90 feet from each other. The plane flew at a height of ten feet only above the crops. As it whizzed past the standing crops, a thick cloud of the pesticide trailed behind and fell on the crops. Its effect on the pest could be felt after twenty four hours.

Nearly three thousand acres of the crop area were sprayed in the Adoni Samithi and another two thousand in the neighbourhood. The pest was effectively controlled and a bumper harvest was reaped. The cost of the operation was very small as compared to the manually operated spraying. In this particular case, the Government of India did not charge anything for the operation, A 25% subsidy was given by the Central Government towards the cost of pesticide.

V.V.F. MARCHES ON

(*Continued from page 10*)

day training camps have been held and 26,000 dalapaties and up-dalapaties trained. 28 lakh man-days have been donated to the D.L.B.s of which nearly 9 lakh days have so far been utilised. About a lakh of rupees have been given in lieu of labour.

MADRAS

The total number of people enrolled so far in the V.V.F. comes to nearly eleven lakh and eighty six thousand. Of this, the women members constitute about 42,000. In addition, the number of man-days donated to the D.L.B.s come to 25,08,000.

MAHARASHTRA

The State has organised a V.V.F. with a strength of 4,02,557. The number of man-days donated to the D.L.B.s is 22,11,767 of which 15,549 days have so far been utilised.

MYSORE

The strength of the V.V.F. in the State is 2,14,731, including 1,100 women. Some 15 lakh man-days have also been received as donations to the D.L.B.

ORISSA

About twelve lakh and seventy two thousand persons have joined the V.V.F. in the State. The number of man days donated to the D.L.B.s is about twelve lakh forty thousand, of which some 6 lakh days have been utilised.

PUNJAB

Some 6 lakh people have enrolled themselves in the V.V.F. Nearly 1,29,000 man-days have been received as donations to D.L.B. The Force was inaugurated in the State in April.

RAJASTHAN

The State has been able to organise a V.V.F. of thirty thousand. The number of man-days donated to the D.L.B. is over 4 lakhs. Cash donations received in lieu of labour comes to about Rs. 76,000.

UTTAR PRADESH

The strength of the V.V.F. in the State is about 17 lakhs and the number of man-days donated in the D.L.B. is about 64 lakhs.

WEST BENGAL

According to the latest figures, the strength of the V.V.F. in the State is nearly five lakhs. The number of man-days donated to the D.L.B. is about 18 lakhs. A 7-day seminar on V.V.F. was held at Nanoar Thana, Kirnahar, in the first week of June. Some hundred trainees attended the seminar.

UNION TERRITORIES

Reports from the Union Territories of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Pondicherry, Goa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands show that they have raised a V.V.F. of about 80,000. The total number of man-days donated to the D.L.B. comes to nearly 18 lakhs.

AROUND THE STATES

MADHYA PRADESH

V.V.F. LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

FIELD CHANNELS for major and medium irrigation projects covering 26,518 acres have been constructed in Madhya Pradesh during the first quarter of this year by the Village Volunteer Force which undertook the job on a campaign basis.

Special schemes for increased agricultural production like dry farming, soil conservation, minor irrigation and use of irrigation potential already created through excavation of field channels have been given priority in the work programme of the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Bank.

* * * *

MAHARASHTRA

UTILISATION OF IRRIGATION POTENTIAL

MAHARASHTRA gave special attention to the campaign for utilisation of irrigation potential. From October, 1962 up to the end of February, 1963, field channels have been completed to cover 93,562 acres and village maps showing alignment of the channels have been prepared to cover 1,09,450 acres.

* * * *

INCREASING GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION

WITH A VIEW to increasing the production of groundnut, one of the most important cash crops of Maharashtra State, its Agriculture Department has undertaken a State-wide programme of intensive cultivation of groundnut. Initially, the programme will be implemented in 19 districts of the State by adopting intensive methods of cultivation. It is hoped that 40 per cent increase in production is possible. The average per acre yield is 560 lbs.

* * * *

PUNJAB

LADY TEACHERS TO BE POSTED IN HOME DISTRICTS

IN THE INTEREST of better education, and for safety and security of women teachers and masters, the State Education Department has decided that all women teachers in the Government Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools, should be posted in their home places.

In case the number of applicants for a certain place is more than the number of posts available, then the candidates who cannot be accommodated at a particular place will be posted at a nearby station. In such cases, preference for posting at a particular place will be given in the following order; unhappy and unmarried, widows and married.

In order to accommodate women teachers, men teachers from Primary Schools will be shifted.

Similarly, graduate lady teachers will be posted in their home places provided there is a girls school and in the case there is no girls school, the posting will be made at the nearest girls school.

This applies to the Block Education Officers (Ladies) also.

* * * *

RAJASTHAN

REORIENTATION OF C.D. PROGRAMME

THE RAJASTHAN Government has decided to reorientate the Community Development programme in the State. Accordingly, the Government has revised the schematic budget of Stage I and Stage II blocks to give more emphasis on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Irrigation Schemes. Consequently, schemes relating to agriculture, animal husbandry and irrigation will get additional amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs in stage I blocks and Rs. 80,000 in stage II blocks.

The staffing pattern in the Panchayat Samitis will also undergo a change. The post of the Industries Extension Officer from most of the Blocks will be abolished. It has also been decided to provide Additional Extension Officers in those Blocks where there is greater scope for improvement in Agricultural production and Animal Husbandry.

One Gram Sevak will be appointed for each Panchayat. He will also work as Secretary of the Gram Panchayat.

* * * *

CONTRIBUTION TO THE N.D.F.

RAJASTHAN has earned the distinction of being the largest gold contributing State in the country. So far, about 3.40 lakh grams of gold has been collected for the National Defence Fund. Ganganagar district alone has contributed gold equal to

the weight of Prime Minister Nehru, the Finance Minister Shri Morarji Desai and Smt. Indira Gandhi, Chairman, Central Citizens' Council. Seven districts of Jodhpur presented gold equal to the weight of Prime Minister Nehru while Banswara district, predominently a Bhil area, has come forward with silver equal to the weight of Smt. Indira Gandhi.

In cash contributions too, Rajasthan has not lagged behind. The overall target of Rs. 2 crores fixed for the State had been exceeded long ago and collections today amount to Rs. 2.12 crores which is more than the average contribution of one rupee per head. Besides, a sizeable amount has been sent to the National Defence Fund directly.

Generous donations of transistors, books, clothing and other articles for the use of the Jawans at the front were given as a token of love and respect from the people and tractors have also been donated for the national defence. Some of the *ex*-rulers, besides putting their rich armouries at the disposal of the Government have also given aeroplanes for defence services.

* * * *

UTTAR PRADESH

TAQAVI TO CULTIVATOR AT HIS DOOR

THE STATE Government have amended the U.P. Taqavi Rules 1942, so as to make it possible for the cultivator to obtain taqavi at his village.

The amendment has raised the limit of remission in the repayment of a loan by an individual from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 in case of loss to crops due to natural calamities or causes beyond his control.

A cultivator intending to obtain a loan has to get his application attested by the Lekhpal or the Gram Sabhapati. His application will be collected by the Village Level Worker or the Panchayat Secretary, who, after getting the repaying capacity of the cultivator assessed and admissibility of the security verified from the Lekhpal, will submit it to the Block Development Officer concerned.

Loans up to Rs. 40 for fertilisers and pesticides and up to Rs. 25 for plant protection apparatus or other permissible purposes will be sanctioned and distributed by the Block Development Officer.

Applications for larger amounts will be verified by Collectors or Officers authorised by the Collectors to do the verification on their behalf.

Loans taken for obtaining insecticides and pesticides will be repayable in full when the crops for which they had been taken might be expected to mature. Advances for implement and plant protection apparatus will be repayable in six-monthly instalments of not less than Rs. 40 each within three years beginning from the first of July following the disbursement.

DOCTOR TURNS A FARMER

(*Continued from page 2*)

constitute a big menace to the crops in the locality, were effectively controlled by using 10 per cent B.H.C. dusting powder. Another pest known as the shoot borer was eliminated by fortnightly spraying of Endrin 20 per cent.

BUMPER CROP

As a result of these various measures, the sugarcane crop grew to a bumper size, going up to 30 ft. or even more. Even a large-sized elephant would be lost in such a tall and thick-sized jungle of sugarcane. To keep the crop erect, a large number of casurina posts and bamboos were used to serve as props. Three tiers of trash twists were put besides two props with horizontal bamboos.

The two-acre plot of sugarcane has been yielding a net profit of Rs. 700 to 800 every year. Dr. Raidu has to depend on farm labourers to help him in the various operations. To a self-cultivating farmer wholly devoted to cultivation, the income would be even more.

The two-acre plot of Dr. Raidu with the luxuriant growth of the sugarcane and its rich juicy yield has become an object lesson to the farmers of the locality. Hundreds of them come to see it and benefit from the highly scientific and improved method of farming followed by its owner. Its demonstration value apart, the existence of the artesian wells in the plot have provided the much-needed irrigation supplies to several farmers in the neighbourhood. This has changed the face of a couple of thousand acres of land in the neighbourhood which hitherto were regarded as barren and unproductive.

FROM THE CENTRE

ROLE OF GRAM SABHAS

THE NATIONAL Institute for Community Development has set up a syndicate to study the practical issues arising out of the constitution of Gram Sabhas.

Important aspects to be discussed by it are the role of the Gram Sabha in the preparation and implementation of the village agricultural production plans and of schemes utilising the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Banks.

Participating in the discussions, Shri B. S. Murthy, Union Deputy Minister for Community Development, said that broadly speaking, Gram Sabhas were the only effective means for raising the living standards of the village people, especially of the weaker sections of the community. He added that the participation of the Gram Sabha would help in drawing up realistic, economic programmes for the villages and for effectively mobilising the willing co-operation of the villagers in their implementation. The Gram Sabha could also act as a referendum on important social and cultural problems of the villages. Shri Murthy concluded by saying that in a Welfare State with a democratic set-up, such as ours, the Gram Sabhas, vested with adequate powers, could act as a real custodian of all development activities in rural India.

AGRICULTURE TEAMS' REPORT

IN A BROADCAST talk relayed from All India Radio, Shri Shriman Narayan, Member, Planning Commission, disclosed that the Central Agriculture Teams which went round the States during the last two months for spotting difficulties and bottlenecks standing in the way of augmenting farm production had completed their work and their joint report would now be placed before the Planning Commission and the National Development Council for further concrete decisions.

The sum and substance of the experience of the Teams was, Shri Shriman Narayan said, that there could be no short-cut or a miracle for stepping up agricultural production in the country.

A significant point made by Shri Shriman Narayan was that agricultural or industrial production in the country could not be substantially increased without overhauling the educational system prevalent in India. The existing schools and colleges, he said, did not lay adequate emphasis on production side with the result that the students despised manual labour and flocked to the cities in search of employment. He hoped that the committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education to prepare a scheme for the introduction of productive work in all educational institutions from the primary to the university levels would be able to submit its report within three months for the consideration of the Ministry of Education and the Planning Commission. He warned that if our educational institutions continued to function in the present bookish atmosphere, all our schemes of agricultural and industrial development would face serious difficulties, now as well as in future.

Pointing out the special difficulties standing in the way of the agricultural programmes, he said that it was easier to set up an iron and steel or a fertiliser factory but to contact millions of farming families and impart to them improved practices was an uphill task which required hard and devoted work on the part of a larger number of workers both officials as well as non-officials.

PROGRESS OF CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE STORES

THERE HAS been steady progress in the implementation of the scheme to set up a network of consumers' stores throughout the country. Though the scheme is hardly six months old, some 89 wholesale stores with about 959 primaries and branches were organised till the end of May, 1963. The target is to set up 200 wholesale stores with 4,000 primaries by the end of 1963-64. The largest number of wholesale stores —seventeen—have been opened in Maharashtra. Madras comes second with 10 wholesale stores and 110 primaries and Mysore third with 8 wholesale stores and 126 branches. Steps are underway to start another 40 wholesale stores and about 100 primaries by the end of this month. An analysis made by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation indicates that the wholesale stores and their branches have done satisfactory work during the past three months. The progress has, however, not been uniform in all the States. On an average, the wholesale stores had a turnover of Rs. 50,00,000 during the past three months.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 1*)

In our country, too, instances are not lacking of joint endeavours on the part of a number of people for their economic betterment carried out from ages past without assuming the registered mark of a co-operative society. We have, for example, in Marwar, *i.e.*, Jodhpur, Pali, and Jaiselmer regions of Rajasthan the age-old custom of joint irrigation and farming on what are known as 'Beras'. The water level in these areas being very low, the cost of digging a well is rather prohibitive for an individual. Consequently, several people join together to dig a well. Since irrigation channels pass through the sandy tracts, they absorb considerable portion of water. In order to prevent this, a continuous flow of water has to be maintained. Therefore, the arrangement made is to draw water by 'Dhinda' or 'Aratha' a sort of persian wheel. This too is a very costly affair. Moreover, since the "Aratha" has to be kept working continuously, the farmers have no other choice but to unite together in almost all the agricultural operations like purchase of seed, ploughing, sowing, reaping and even threshing. Even in land records, the whole land belonging to various farmers is shown as against one 'Bera' and the share of each member is also explicitly stated therein. After paying for the services of the carpenter, the blacksmith, the potter etc., they divide the remaining produce according to their respective shares. The membership of such unregistered co-operative farms is often quite large. In Bhimalya village of Tehsil Kharchi, District Pali, there is a joint farming of 32 members.

As in agriculture, there is evidence of such voluntary co-operation in the industrial field as well. In Hadti, (Kotah-Bundi) area of Rajasthan, the flayers, for example, carry out their operations jointly. All of them, numbering about twenty or even more join hands together in removing the carcass of an animal, flaying the skin and selling the raw hide. The proceeds are distributed equally amongst them all.

There are many more instances of such co-operative ventures being carried on in the rural areas from ages past. They deserve every encouragement at the hands of the Government. To deny them any assistance simply because they do not bear the seal of registration is highly inappropriate. The Government would be well-advised to rely on such genuine co-operatives rather than the ones which have merely the "sign-board" but nothing else.

Yours etc.
R. S. BANTHIYA

Marwari Road,
BHOPAL (M.P.)
Dt. 20-6-1963

PANCHAYATI RAJ—Its Overall Progress

(*Continued from page 5*)

Panchayat. Each Panchayat has on an average a population of about 800.

WEST BENGAL

In West Bengal, Panchayats are now being constituted according to a phased programme. A higher body called Anchal Panchayat has also been constituted for a group of contiguous Gram Sabhas. The Panchayat is to be directly elected by secret ballot for a term of four years. The West Bengal Zila Parishads Bill, 1962, was introduced in the State Legislature in December, last year. The Bill is now before a joint select committee. So far, only 38 per cent of the villages and 37 per cent of the rural population in West Bengal have been covered by the Panchayats. There are about 6,100 Panchayats in this State.

UNION TERRITORIES

Village Panchayats are established in the Union Territories of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh and are being established in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Manipur and Tripura. In order to introduce the Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territories, the Constitution has been amended to provide for legislatures in Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Pondicherry and Goa, Daman and Diu. As the concerned legislatures are empowered to deal with State subjects, it would be open to them when set up, to pass legislation on Panchayati Raj.

Shri Shamrao Kadam, President, Zilla Parishad, Nanded District, is inaugurating the Shramdan Week at Dongargaon Village.

In a village in Thad district, the young and the old joined hands to raise bunds across the cultivators' fields.

SHRAMDAN WEEK IN MAHARASHTRA

Men as well as women joined hands in large numbers to make the Shramdan Week a success.

The villagers returning home after the Shramdan

Dry farming has received particular attention in the programme of increasing agricultural production during the Emergency. A view of the Contour-bunding operation carried out during the Shramdan Week organised in Maharashtra.

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